

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The non-final Office Action dated December 2, 2004, indicated that claims 1-6, 8-16, 21, 23-28, 30, 32-36, 42-49, 51, 53-59, 63-66, 68, 70, and 74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,964). Each of the other rejections is also based on this '964 reference. Claims 20 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,964) in view of Goldstein (U.S. Patent No. 5,410,326). Claims 7, 22, 29, 31, 37-41, 67, and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,964) in view of *Edens et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,537). Claims 17-19, 52, and 60-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,964) in view of Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,837,798). Claims 69 and 71-73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,964) in view of Lewis (U.S. Patent 5,835,126).

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections of the claims, which have been amended to set forth more clearly that which should be implicitly present.

Independent claims 1 and 65 have been similarly amended to be more expressly directed to an approach in which the user input device is adapted to communicate to the NIU via the bussing arrangement. The asserted prior art does not teach or suggest that the user input device is adapted to command or program the NIU via the bussing arrangement as claimed. For example, the '964 reference teaches that the remote

controller 42 commands the system controller 38 via an electrical signal on line 54, and line 54 is not the communication bus 36 over which the cable service information is provided..

Each of independent claims 46 and 55 is directed to an interpretation based on the specification, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112(6). Because the disclosed "user (input) means for inputting" is via the bussing arrangement (see, *e.g.*, page 8, line 29 and page 10, lines 3-16), which is not taught or suggested by the prior art as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections should be removed.

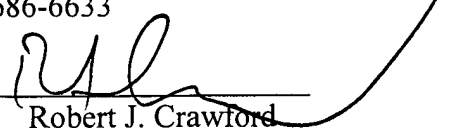
The dependent claims have also been rejected based on this misinterpretation of the '964 reference. In view thereof, Applicant submits that the rejections of these claims should also be removed.

In view of the above discussion, Applicant believes that the rejection has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. A favorable response is requested. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (651) 686-6633.

Respectfully submitted,

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